



BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1997

BUNCOM SURVIVES THE GREAT NEW YEAR'S FLOOD OF '97

The water crashed all around and Buncom Creek, the seasonal creek below the Post Office, was a raging torrent, but Buncom itself stayed high and dry as floodwaters crested early on New Year's Day.

Most of the bridges and culverts along Sterling Creek and the Little Applegate River were washed out by the flood. Sterling Creek Road was closed by a washout just beyond Buncom. But most homes in the area escaped damage.

For many of our members, the days and weeks following the flood were spent in cleaning up an incredible amount of debris. The last flood in the area was 23 years ago, so there was plenty of buildup of such things as fallen logs and silt.

The pasture below Buncom became a separate arm of the Little Applegate, and immense logs were left there as the water receded.

For those of you from outside the area, Southern Oregon was pretty hard hit by the flooding. Lithia Park and the Plaza in downtown Ashland were inundated, and there was flooding along Bear Creek through Medford and on the Rogue River.

The Applegate newspaper, published by the Applegate Partnership, gave particularly good coverage to the damage in the Applegate. Copies are available from J.D. Rogers at (541) 846-7736.

IT'S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m.** That's the date and time for our annual meeting, at Reeve and Lyn Hennion's home, 3232 Little Applegate Road, across the pasture from Buncom. We'll finish by 4 p.m. We need your thoughts about Buncom Day -- just what we want it to be this year.

Please RSVP so we'll have a count for refreshments: Either leave a message on the Hennions' answering machine (899-7656) or return the form on the last page.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Many members have not renewed their memberships for 1997. If there is an "F." on your mailing label, please send in your dues now. You can use the form on the last page.

BUILDING UPDATE

Have you ever had one of those projects that just never seems to get completed? That's our only excuse for the Bunkhouse repair work. The flooding delayed things because our contractor's attention was necessarily diverted to more pressing projects. But it WILL be done soon!

BUNCOM DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 24, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR PICTURES

Were you taking pictures of the flooding along Sterling Creek and the Little Applegate on Jan. 1 or 2? If so, residents would be grateful if you could share them. Most of those with damage were too busy trying to get a start on cleaning up -- or were stranded -- and did not have a chance to take pictures before the water receded.

If you would be willing to let us make copies of pictures showing high water at or near Society members' homes, please call Reeve or Lyn Hennion at 899-7656. They will see that they get to those whose properties are shown.

JUANITA ROGERS

A Buncom native, Juanita Kleinhammer Rogers, died recently at the age of 85 in Jacksonville. She was born at Buncom in 1911. She and her husband, whom she married in 1928, owned and operated a building supply store in Crescent City, Calif., for many years. In recent years, after his death, she made her home in Jacksonville. She was an active member of our Society.

In the Society's book, "Buncom: Crossroads Station," Mrs. Rogers reminisced about the ranch her family owned. In the late 1920s and the Depression, the family successfully panned for gold near Buncom.

SOHS BROCHURE IS WELL UNDERWAY

A new history brochure is in production by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. It will include major historical sites in Jackson County, including Buncom, with descriptions of the sites and directions on how to get to them. The brochure is planned to be available to residents and visitors in May.

BUNCOM

By Scotty Gray

*It's known as Old Buncom Corner
A place where you've got to slow down;
A spot on the map where the mem'ries
Wander all over downtown.
Some say it's just some old buildings
That should be politely destroyed,
To make way for more solid structures
That are more cost-effective employed.
Or possibly just tear it all down --
Buildings and trees and the shade,
And grind up the earth for more pasture
Through which cow/calf units wade.
Or maybe we straighten the roads out,
Less dangerous then, don't you know!
We could drive at neck-breaking speed then
(and not at twenty below).*

*But, yet, some folks are a-wondering
Why don't we let the ghosts talk?
Why don't we repair the old buildings
And recapture the historical walk?
Rebuild the roofs and the sidings,
Restructure the walls and the trails,
And walk with the ghosts of Old Buncom
And repeat for one day the old mails.
And the why of the Indian doings
The why of the Passion D' Ditch
That consumed the descendants of Phillips
And made Kleinhammer so rich.*

*And, why, in the shade of Old Buncom
When we see the old buildings in town,
We see miner and cowboy and farmer
And not just shades of wood brown.
And we'll think of the past and the doings
Of commerce and mail-toting lines,
And the people who came and full-used them
'Neath the shade of the gallant old pines.
Just maybe we'll learn what we search for,
Just maybe we'll know what we miss,
If we but just ken to the whispers
In those pine trees' wind-driven kiss.*

JOIN US FOR THE PEAR BLOSSOM PARADE

We're going to participate in Medford's Pear Blossom Parade again this year. It's set for Saturday, April 12. The Country Farm Center in Medford once again will be providing a tractor. Will we march? Will we enter a float? Want to join us? Give us a call, or let us know at the Annual Meeting.

NOTE: Scotty Gray, author of the poem "Buncom" on Page 2, is a member of the Society and has a place on Yale Creek Road.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President	899-7656
Lyn Hennion	
J.B. Roberts, Secretary	899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer	
Ron Marchetti	899-1263
Donna Marchetti	
Ben Fowler	899-7805
Connie Fowler	

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon.

Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road,
Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>

☐ Yes, renew my/our membership for 1997. Enclosed is our \$5.00 dues.

☐ Yes, I/we will be at the Annual Meeting on April 6. Number attending:

☐ No, I/we won't be at the Annual Meeting.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Comments:

Mail to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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